

Senate Bill No. 1418

Passed the Senate May 17, 2004

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly August 12, 2004

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day of
_____, 2004, at _____ o'clock __M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

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CHAPTER _____

An act to add Article 4 (commencing with Section 40) to Chapter 1 of Part 1 of, and to repeal Section 33080 of, the Education Code, relating to education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1418, Vasconcellos. Articulation of educational purpose and policy.

The California Constitution requires the Legislature to provide for a system of common schools and includes within that system all kindergarten schools, elementary schools, secondary schools, community colleges, and state colleges, and the school districts and other agencies that maintain those schools and colleges.

This bill would articulate the Legislature's intent as to the purpose and public policy of that system.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Article 4 (commencing with Section 40) is added to Chapter 1 of Part 1 of the Education Code, to read:

Article 4. California Educational Purpose and Policy

40. It is the intent of the Legislature, in enacting this measure, to provide for the people of the State of California, and in particular for the entirety of our public educational system, a clear and compelling introduction to, and grounding of, the code, so as to lay the foundation for a comprehensive and coherent upgrading of the code, the public school system, and the fundamental opportunities for self-realization, learning, and development, provided to all the people of the State of California.

41. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The purposes of the public educational system, from preschool to postsecondary education, are all of the following:

(1) To promote and encourage by all suitable means the general diffusion of knowledge and intelligence.

(2) To appreciate, respect, and nurture, the realization of each pupil and student of his or her innate instinct for learning, so as to



enable each to become a self-initiating and self-sustaining learner for life.

(3) To provide each pupil and student the basic opportunity, encouragement, and support, to enable them to realize the entirety of his or her intellectual, emotional, psychological, physical, vocational, spiritual, and moral potential.

(4) To enable Californians, individually and altogether, to fully face, readily live up to, and entirely realize, our greatest challenge, which is realizing the promise of our multicultural democracy, with gender equity, in the global economy, in this age of technology.

(b) Recognizing that our educational system can only be as excellent as the educational community that constitutes it, each member of the educational community should be empowered and held accountable in the pursuit of educational excellence, including, but not limited to, pupils and students, parents, teachers, principals, superintendents, and school board members, altogether becoming a learning community.

(c) Recognizing that our citizenry is becoming ever more profoundly diverse and that pupils and students arrive at institutions of the public educational system with varying levels of advantage and development, the state should provide each pupil and student, particularly those who are the most unrealized learners, each of the components essential to a fundamental and just opportunity to learn, including all of the following:

(1) Quality teachers.

(2) Sufficient instructional materials.

(3) Other tools that are necessary for success, including, but not limited to, counseling programs.

(4) School facilities that are sufficient and that provide an environment that is safe, secure, and clean.

42. In furtherance of fulfilling each of the purposes, the Legislature recognizes all of the following guiding principals and finds that those principals should be applied by all key stakeholders in the public educational system:

(a) Each child is a unique and precious whole person, with unique needs, and each child is a learner by nature.

(b) The public educational system should be centered on pupils and students.

(c) The public educational system should be learning-oriented.



(d) The public educational system should be transparent and accountable. “Transparent,” means that all interested stakeholders are able to discern all that is going on therein. “Accountable” means that all interested stakeholders are able to discern whether, and how well, the public educational system is fulfilling its mission.

(e) The public educational system should be designed for and operated toward striving for excellence.

(f) The public educational system, including each of its key components, including, but not limited to, preschool programs, elementary, middle, and secondary schools, and colleges, should become, and operate as, integrated and seamless.

(g) The code is permissive, that is, each component of the public educational system should be permitted and free to pursue its purposes by any appropriate means not prohibited by the code.

43. It is the intent of the Legislature to endeavor to recognize and promote all of the following public policy statements:

(a) Quality education is essential to the fiscal and economic well-being of the state.

(b) Each school should be recognized as a unique learning community, with its own community composition, conditions, realities, and needs.

(c) Each child is a unique person, with unique needs, and the purpose of the educational system of this state is to enable each child to develop all of his or her own potential. To this end, public schools should be focused on pupils as lifelong learners, recognizing that healthy pupils arrive at school with an intrinsic motivation to learn.

(d) California public education should seek to promote lifelong learning by placing the learner at the center of education. To this end public schools should adopt learner centered education that helps the learner to acquire basic skills to learn and provides a basis for learning throughout life. Recognizing that the responsibility for learning rests ultimately on the learner, it should be the responsibility of public schools to facilitate learning through education that recognizes the unique needs of the individual, and that is flexible, competency-based, varied in methodology, and not always constrained by time or place.

(e) It should be the goal of the public schools to create an environment that supports the individual as a whole person,



attempts to meet the individual needs of a broad range of learners who have different ways of learning, different skills, and different cultural backgrounds. Different learning styles may be addressed by a variety of means.

(f) California public schools should do all of the following:

(1) Be learner-centered, attending to the diversity among pupils and using this diversity to enrich learning and enhance results for all pupils.

(2) Recognize that the learning of complex subject matter is most effective when it is an intentional process of constructing meaning from information and experience.

(3) Recognize that successful learners are active, goal-directed, self-regulating, and that successful learners assume personal responsibility for contributing to their own learning.

(4) Assist learners to acquire the thinking and learning strategies necessary for continued learning success throughout their lives.

(5) Assist learners in creating meaningful learning goals that are consistent with both personal and educational aspirations and interests.

(6) Assist learners to link new information with existing knowledge in meaningful ways.

(7) Assist learners to engage in strategic and critical thinking and reasoning strategies to solve problems and achieve complex learning goals.

(8) Provide a learning environment that is nurturing and that motivates learners with instructional practices that are appropriate for the learners' level of prior knowledge, cognitive abilities, and learning and thinking strategies.

(9) The public educational system must include not only inputs and resources, but also outputs that measure and allow pupils and students to demonstrate the "six Rs," which are Reading, 'Riting, 'Rithmetic, self-Respect, personal Responsibility, and human Relations. The six Rs are necessary for a child of today to become a truly educated person of the 21st century.

SEC. 2. Section 33080 of the Education Code is repealed.



Approved _____, 2004

Governor

